

Application No. 10/711,841
Technology Center 2827
Amendment dated February 28, 2007
Reply to Office Action dated November 24, 2006

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REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner reviewed claims 1-30 of the above-identified US Patent Application, with the result that:

Independent claim 6 and its dependent claim 29, independent claim 11 and its dependent claims 12-15 and 17-20, and independent claim 16 and its dependent claim 30 were allowed;

Dependent claims 2, 3, 5, 9, and 10 (which depend from independent claim 1) and dependent claims 22-28 (which depend from independent claim 21) were deemed to recite allowable subject matter; and

Independent claim 1, its dependent claims 5, 7, and 8, and independent claim 21 were rejected under 35 USC §102.

In response, Applicants have amended the claims as set forth above. More particularly:

Independent claims 1 and 21 have been amended to incorporate the limitations of their respective dependent claims 2 and 22 (canceled without prejudice) pursuant to the Examiner's conclusion that claims 2 and 22 recite allowable subject matter. As such, independent claims 1 and 21 and claims depending therefrom are believed to be allowable over the prior art of record.

Dependent claims 9 and 27 have been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of their base claims 1 and 21, respectively,

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pursuant to the Examiner's conclusion that claims 9 and 27 recite allowable subject matter.

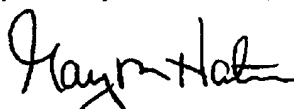
Dependent claims 3, 23, and 25 have been amended to depend from claim 1 or 21 in view of the limitations of their parent claims 2 and 22 being incorporated into claims 1 and 21.

Applicants believe that the above amendments do not present new matter. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 USC §102.

Closing

Should the Examiner have any questions with respect to any matter now of record, Applicants' representative may be reached at (219) 462-4999.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment: Fee Sheet